

gaming, or *crisis role-planning* to work out how to adapt this process to the involvement of large numbers of the non-expert public in various hypothetical futures; and then to test their proposals through a pilot project in the Adams-Morgan neighbourhood of Washington D.C.

Simulation has frequently been used to work with hypothetical futures of military conflict and diplomatic crisis. One form of such simulations has involved computers; another (more relevant to the proposed purpose) has concentrated on role-playing by human beings who act as if they are high government officials of nations involved in an international crisis for which an introductory scenario has been previously written. This procedure has been used to experiment with future worlds in which major changes have taken place, and there is evidence that the participants learned a good deal about the constraints and opportunities involved in such a situation.

A concerted effort might create a number of centres in which the civically and politically active, the cadres of business and labour organizations, and even those in the middle and lower classes who are quite unused to effective community action can experi-

ment with their own and the country's futures. Some centres might be set up on a training-laboratory, college-course, or workshop basis—a new departure in adult education. Others might be incorporated in schools and colleges for the use of students.

In any of these settings, it seems possible that such "future games" could focus on several different kinds of situation. One might project, for example, a particular sort of school system of the year 2000—perhaps a highly automated school whose students frequently use euphoria-creating drugs, are politically organized, and carry on political and social action with deprived groups in the community. Participants in this "game" might play the roles of parent, student, teacher, principal, city councillor, and taxpayer, each faced with the crisis created by the sudden advent of a powerful intelligence enhancing drug. Another game might pose the problem of a revolution in South Africa, in a world in which total national disarmament was being enforced by a minimal, non-governmental world police force. It would seek to understand how statesmen of various nations, UN officials, and similar persons would respond to the crisis and to each other's responses.

Second congress of Mankind 2000 International Japan 1960

Mankind 2000 International is proposing to hold its next meeting in Japan in 1970. It would then coincide with two other events of importance in Japan—the World Exposition to be held in Osaka on the theme "Progress and harmony for mankind", and the 25th anniversary of the inception of nuclear warfare on 6 August 1945, when an atom bomb was dropped on

Hiroshima. These events, the organizers feel, would make Japan in 1970 an appropriate place and time for a meeting concerned with promoting a comprehensive approach to the opportunities and problems of life in the next 30 years. The theme suggested would be "Human development in a critical future".

The first international congress ini-

tiated by Mankind 2000 took place at Oslo in September 1967 on the theme "The near future of mankind: peace and development 1970-2000".

Increasing attention is now being directed both nationally and internationally toward planning for the future, based on increasingly sophisticated economic, technological, and social forecasting techniques. However, Mankind 2000 believes that, if the human factor does not receive commensurate attention and fails to develop, all plans, however well intentioned,

will be liable to serious disruption owing to the intervention of the unpredictable irrational element.

The choice of theme for the proposed 1970 meeting should help to focus attention on the underlying factor of human development and the problems inherent in this context. Participation will probably be by invitation.

Further information may be obtained from Mr James Wellesley-Wesley, Secretary, Mankind 2000 International, c/o Bank of Scotland, 30 Bishopsgate, London E.C.2.

Plan for a conference on practical forecasting

The European Technological Forecasting Association is exploring the possibility of holding a second conference, probably in 1970 and possibly

in France. The theme of the conference would be "Technological forecasting in practice". This theme has been chosen after obtaining the reactions of

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